

STATUS UPDATE ON FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (4/21/2020)

Congress enacted three new federal unemployment programs under the CARES Act on March 27th. MDOL knows everyone is impatient for news of these programs. Yet, implementing these new federal UI programs is a multi-step, state-federal partnership. That process depends on MDOL receiving federal guidance which we did on April 5, a little more than two weeks ago. The process involves gathering technical requirements, software development, system testing, user acceptance testing, and then finally, implementation and deployment. Status update:

1. **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)**: MDOL just completed the above rigorous process for this first program which provides an additional \$600 weekly benefit to those already receiving regular unemployment. \$54 million in benefits were sent to banks for disbursement April 16th.
2. **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** provides unemployment coverage for the self-employed and others not normally covered by unemployment insurance and will be the next program to roll out. MDOL is in the middle of the technical requirement gathering stage which involves identifying appropriate documentation to validate earnings. We are still awaiting USDOL's Questions & Answers in order to complete the technical requirements gathering. Our intent is to accomplish two goals: get these benefits out as quickly as possible, and, adhere to the rigorous program integrity required by federal law.

Self-employed people—who are understandably eager for the roll out of this program--can start preparing to apply by gathering the following tax schedules: Federal Tax Return -1040 (2018 or 2019), Schedule C- sole proprietor, Schedule F- Farmers, Schedule J— Farmers and Fishermen, Schedule SE- Self-employment, Schedule K-1- Partnerships and S-Corp

Information about the application process will be posted on our website as soon as it's available.

3. **Pandemic Extended Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)** provides an additional up to 13 weeks of benefits to those who may have exhausted theirs. MDOL is at the guidance analysis stage for this final federal unemployment program. MDOL received initial guidance on this program from U.S. DOL only a week ago.